personality traits of reporting/reviewing officers, the tendency on the part of same officers to hold on to routing jobs etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The procedure for promotion to higher posts/grades was revised in March, 1989 by introducing a benchmark for each post/grade to determine the minimum suitability for promotion. The benchmark has been prescribed with due regard to level of the posts/grades to which promotions are to be made and the nature and importance of duties attached to them. The objective of this, inter alia, is to ensure high standard of selectivity in promotion to senior level posts. No administrative problems in following the revised procedure have been experienced or anticipated.

Non-conventional measures for family planning

2595. DR. YELAMANCHELI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what are the non-conventional measures, such as application of natural herbs and barries, under the ICMR research programme for family planning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The ICMR under the task force on anti-fertility plant products sponsored research programmes on application of natural herbs and barries. Laboratory explorations were carried out on rodents and a few cases on sub-human primates. Toxicity studies were also carried out and it was found that most of the anti-fertility plants and products were toxic; and as such further clinical trials were discontinued. As regards a plant product known as 'Benjauri' used orally by the tribal women of Bihar in the belief that it provides permanent anti-fertility effect when taken during the post-partum period, the available clinical data from the ongoing trials at the PGI, Chandigarh is not very encouraging.

Kickback money in Bofors deal

2596. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Minister of State for Defence had proposed that Rs. 64 crores and the additional liquidation charges from Bofors must be taken back; if so, what was Government's response thereto;

(b) whether Government propose to ask for part of kickback money from Bofors, acquired by the middlemen over Howitzer gun deal; if so, what are the details thereof and what is the response of Bofors; and

(c) whether the proposal for manufacture of Howitzer guns is being discussed with Bofors; if so, what is the cost of the project and how much payment is to be paid in this connection to Bofors?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) Having taken the opinion of the Attorney General for India, the JPC had concluded that mere suspicion did not provide sufficient ground for raising claims for reimbursement. The JPC also did not find evidence of any kickback.

(c) The details in respect of the proposed manufacture of the howitzers are being finalised. The amounts involved cannot be precisely assessed till the proposal has been finalised.

Testing of samples in Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad

2597. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad has not been approved and notified as a Government Laboratory under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, to test

homoeopathic medicines and to perform sterility tests;

(b) whether the Director of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad, in contravention of his statutory powers, has carried out testing of imported samples of homoeopathic medicine, Cineraria Maritima Succus, including sterility tests;

(c) whether he has issued test reports in the Indian Express dated the 7th July, 1989, declaring Cineraria Maritima Succus of West Germany as of substandard quality;

(d) under what provision of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the Director of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia, Ghaziabad is carrying out such testing activity; and

(e) whether the activities of Director of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Ghaziabad, are in violation of the provision of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act; if so, the nature of disciplinary action, proposed to be taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (d) and (e) Dr. P. N. Verma, Director of the Laboratory has been appointed as a Government Analyst for the whole of India in respect of Homoeopathic medicines in terms of Sub-Section (2) of Section 20 read with Section 3C (ii) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It is the duty of the Government Analyst under Rule 45 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to cause to be analysed or tested samples of drugs as may be sent to him in the prescribed manner. The testing/analysis of drugs thus does not constitute any contravention of the powers of the Government Analyst.

(c) No, Sir. The news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 7.7.1989 did not contain any test report. The test/analysis reports are issued in Form 13 as required under the Drugs Rules.

Waiting list of telephone connections in Shahadra

2598. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will he Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting list for new telephone connections in Shahadra East with level No. 228 is the largest in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of new telephone connections given in the first quarter of the current year in Shahadra Exchange with level No. 228; and

(c) the number of new telephone connections proposed to be given during the current year; quarter-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, 372 new lines have been given in the first quarter of the current year.

(c) There is no immediate plan for providing more connections in Shahadra area during remaining part of the current year.

Waiting list of telephone connections in Delhi

2599. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India dated 11th April, 1989 under the caption 'Responding to the needs of tommorrow' wherein the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has claimed that the waiting list of Delhi has been reduced to eight years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the waiting list of Shahadra East has not touched even over the registrants of January, 1980; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to clear the waiting